THE PHANTOM™
GHOST WHO WALKS
#8
MOONSTONE
$3.99
cover A
Mike Bullock
Silvestre Szilagyi

THE PHANTOM™

GHOST WHO WALKS

created by LEE FALK

For those who came in late...

NEARLY 500 YEARS AGO ON A REMOTE BANGALLAN BEACH, ONLY ONE SURVIVED A VICIOUS PIRATE ATTACK.
THE FIRST PHANTOM SWORE A SACRED OATH ON THE SKULL OF HIS FATHER'S KILLER.
...WILL DEVOTE MY LIFE TO THE DESTRUCTION OF PIRACY, GREED, CRUELTY AND INJUSTICE!
GENERATION AFTER GENERATION FOLLOWED, BUT TO THE OUTSIDE WORLD, HE WAS ALWAYS ONE MAN... IMMORTAL.
NOW THE 21ST PHANTOM HAUNTS THE NIGHTMARES OF EVIL MEN EVERYWHERE.

"GODFALL" part one

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SPECIAL THANKS TO
OUR PHANTOM CONSULTANT
ED RHOADES

AND TO **KAREN MOY**
AT KING FEATURES

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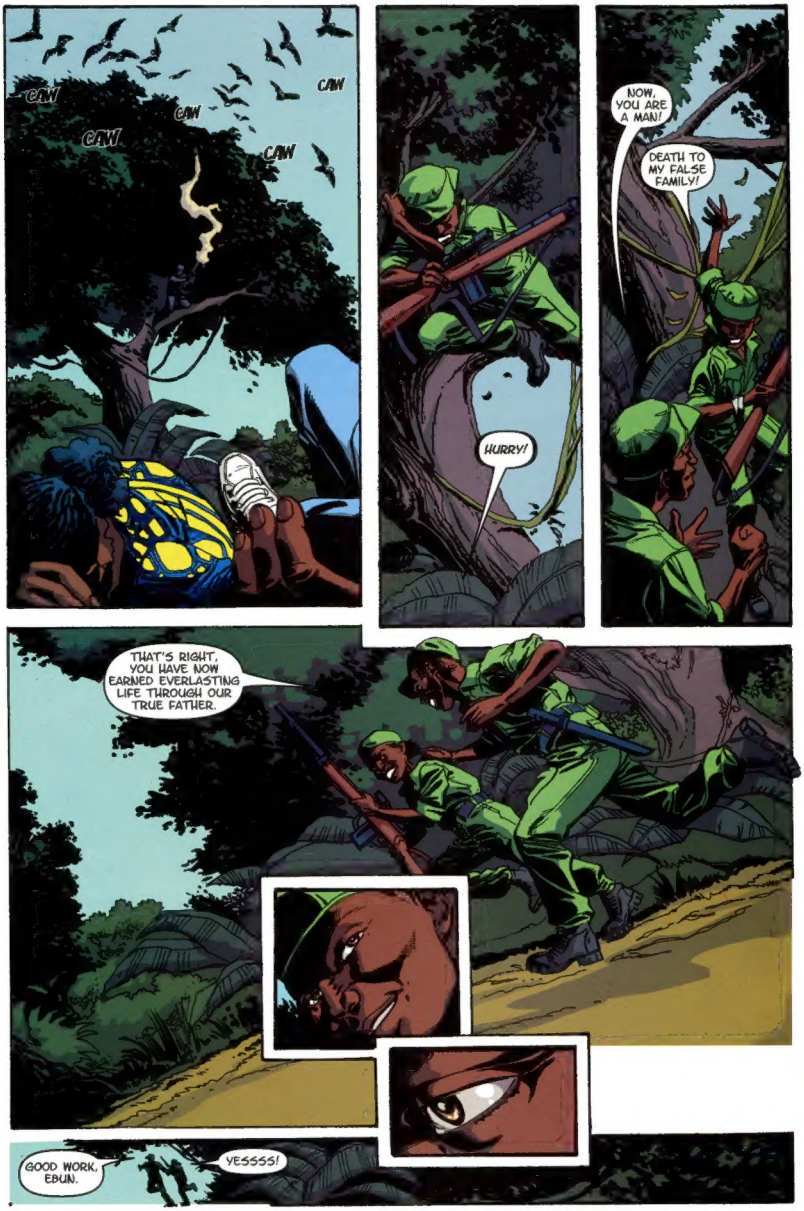
NORTHERN BANGALLA.
VISHANTE! PASS THE BALL! PASS IT!

HERE! PASS IT HERE!
I MISS HIM, TOO...
WHY WON'T HE COME HOME, BEJIDA? WHY CAN'T I HOLD MY EBUN? WHY?
DO NOT GIVE UP HOPE, MY LOVE. EBUN MAY STILL RETURN TO US.
IF ONLY I COULD TELL HIM I LOVE HIM ONE MORE TIME...

HOW COULD EBUN POSSIBLY NOT KNOW HOW MUCH YOU LOVE HIM, MY WIFE?
HOW COULD HE-
PAHHK
BEJIDA?
BEJIDA!!
BEJ-
PAHHK


CAW
CAW
CAW
CAW
CAW
HURRY!
NOW, YOU ARE A MAN!
DEATH TO MY FALSE FAMILY!
THAT'S RIGHT, YOU HAVE NOW EARNED EVERLASTING LIFE THROUGH OUR TRUE FATHER.
YESSSS!
GOOD WORK, EBUN.

WAS THAT GUNFIRE, PHANTOM?
JUDGING BY THE SCREAMS, I'D SAY YES.
-SHOT THEM!
-CAME FROM OVER THERE!
-DEAD!
WHO WOULD DO SUCH A THING?
DID ANYONE SEE WHERE THEY CAME FROM?
THE TREES! IT CAME FROM THE TREES!
NO! THE SHOTS CAME FROM THE CANAL!
BEJIDA! MY FRIEND...

JUST AS YOU HAVE LOST YOUR SON, BEJIDA, WE HAVE LOST A GREAT MAN THIS DAY.
I'M SORRY FOR YOUR LOSS, GURAN.
YOU ARE SWORN TO PROTECT US, GHOST WHO WALKS! HOW COULD YOU LET THIS HAPPEN TO MY BROTHER?
DO YOU KNOW WHO DID THIS?
THE SHOT CAME FROM THE TREES, PHANTOM!
THE KILLER WILL STAND TRIAL. THIS I PROMISE.

GRRRRR
GOT SOMETHING, BOY?
GRRRRRRRR
GRR
GRR
GOOD WORK, DEVIL.
STILL WARM...

GRRRUFF
SO, THERE'S MORE THAN ONE OF THEM.
I DON'T LIKE THE LOOKS OF THIS ONE BIT, DEVIL.
WHAT IS IT, PHANTOM?
THOSE ARE PRETTY SMALL FOR A SNIPER...
ARE YOU THINKING WHAT I'M THINKING?

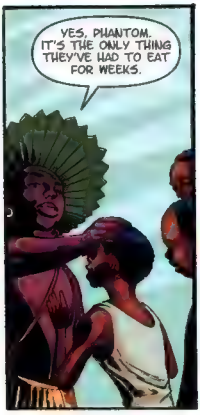
IT'S JUST UP AHEAD, OVER THAT RISE.
GRAAR
SOUNDS LIKE OUR PREY IS MAKING WAVES.
WE MAY NEVER FIND THEM IN THERE, PHANTOM
YOU MIGHT BE RIGHT

THAT LOOKS LIKE A GOOD PLACE TO START.

ISN'T THIS THE CAMP YOU VISITED LAST WEEK, GURAN?

YES, IT IS, PHANTOM.
HERE YOU GO, SON. GIVE THESE TO YOUR MOTHER TO HELP WITH THE PAIN

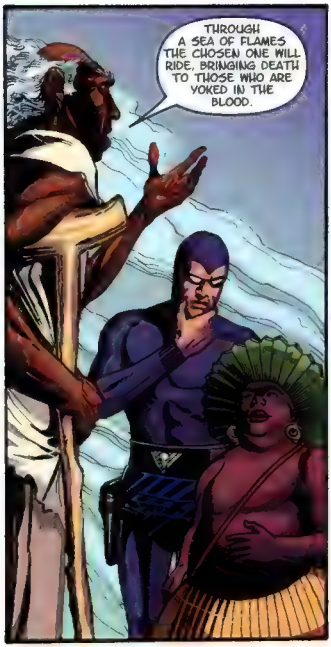
WHAT ABOUT THE FOOD WE BOUGHT FOR THEM, DID IT MAKE IT HERE?


YES, PHANTOM. IT'S THE ONLY THING THEY'VE HAD TO EAT FOR WEEKS.

THERE'S CHIGANI, A DEAR OLD FRIEND I'VE NOT SEEN IN MONTHS. HE MAY BE OF HELP TO US

GURAN! IT IS ALWAYS A PLEASURE TO SPEAK WITH YOU. BUT THIS TIME, I SEE YOU HAVE BROUGHT THE MIGHTY GHOST!
TO WHAT DO I OWE THIS HONOR?
WE ARE TRACKING A MURDERER WHO STRUCK DOWN A FRIEND IN THE ACHOLI VILLAGE. WE BELIEVE HE HAS COME HERE TO HIDE.
HAVE YOU SEEN THEM, I WONDER? ONE SMALLER THAN THE OTHER, BOTH WEARING MILITARY BOOTS.
THERE ARE OVER FIFTY THOUSAND REFUGEES IN THIS CAMP, MY FRIEND. THE ONES YOU SEEK WILL PROVE TO BE PROVERBIAL NEEDLES IN OUR HAYSTACK.
WE SAW A COMMOTION OVER THERE BEFORE WE CAME DOWN THE HILL. DO YOU KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT THAT?
THIS CAMP IS FILLED WITH RESTLESS SOULS, UNGROUNDED FROM THEIR LANDS, FORGOTTEN IN A CONSTANT STATE OF TURMOIL
"COMMOTION" IS ANOTHER WORD FOR NORMAL IN HERE...
I CAN TELL YOU THIS—

WHISPERS ON THE WIND TELL OF AN ANCIENT EVIL, RETURNING TO POWER, BRINGING WITH IT WAR LIKE THAT WHICH MORTALS CANNOT WAGE. A TRAP HAS BEEN LAID, FOR A WRAITH


THROUGH A SEA OF FLAMES THE CHOSEN ONE WILL RIDE, BRINGING DEATH TO THOSE WHO ARE YOKED IN THE BLOOD.

LOOKS LIKE WE LOST THEM, BOY

COME ON, DEVIL, THERE'S MORE THAN ONE WAY TO TRACK A KILLER
THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME, CHIGANI. GET SOME REST. OLD FRIEND

SEEMS LIKE YOUR FRIEND'S CHEESE HAS SLID OFF HIS CRACKER BACK THERE.
THE HUMAN MIND CAN PROVE TO BE VERY FRAGILE AT TIMES. CHIGANI IS A GOOD MAN WHO HAS WITNESSED FAR MORE TRAGEDY THAN ANYONE EVER SHOULD.

THIS ENTIRE LAND HAS WITNESSED TOO MUCH.

OUR INTROSPECTION, I FEAR, HAS REMOVED OUR FOCUS FROM THE TASK AT HAND, PHANTOM. HOW ARE WE TO FIND BEJIDA'S KILLER?

WE CONTACT THE JUNGLE PATROL, HAVE THEM KEEP AN EYE ON ANYONE COMING OR GOING FROM THAT CAMP.

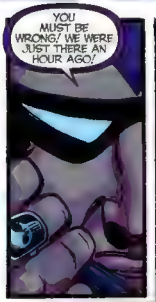
SHALL I SEND THE MESSAGE?

NO, LET ME

CHANE TOLD ME I JUST NEEDED A CLEAR VIEW OF THE SKY FOR THIS TO WORK.

THIS IS THE COMMANDER. PUT SURVEILLANCE TEAMS AROUND THE REFUGEE CAMP IN THE GAMBORAH VALLEY IMMEDIATELY.

WHAT?


YOU MUST BE WRONG. WE WERE JUST THERE AN HOUR AGO.

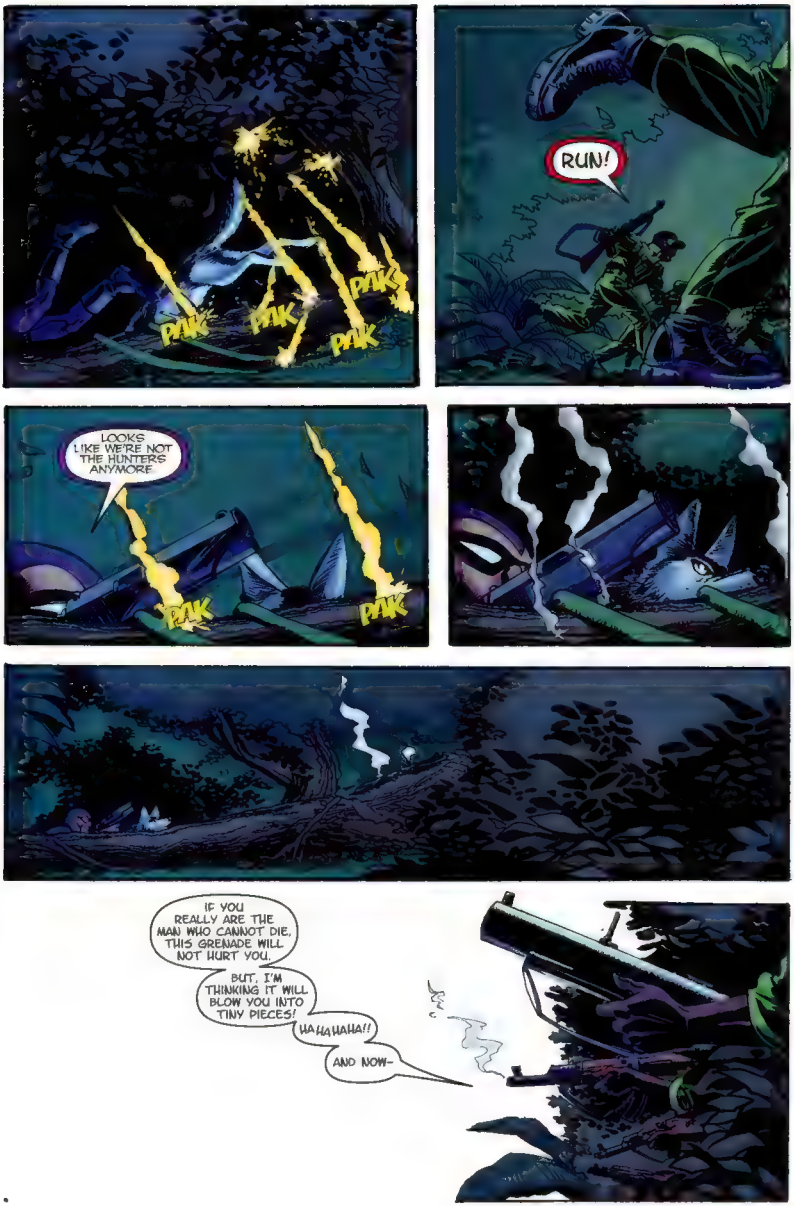
SOMETHING'S GONE HORRIBLY WRONG AT THE CAMP.

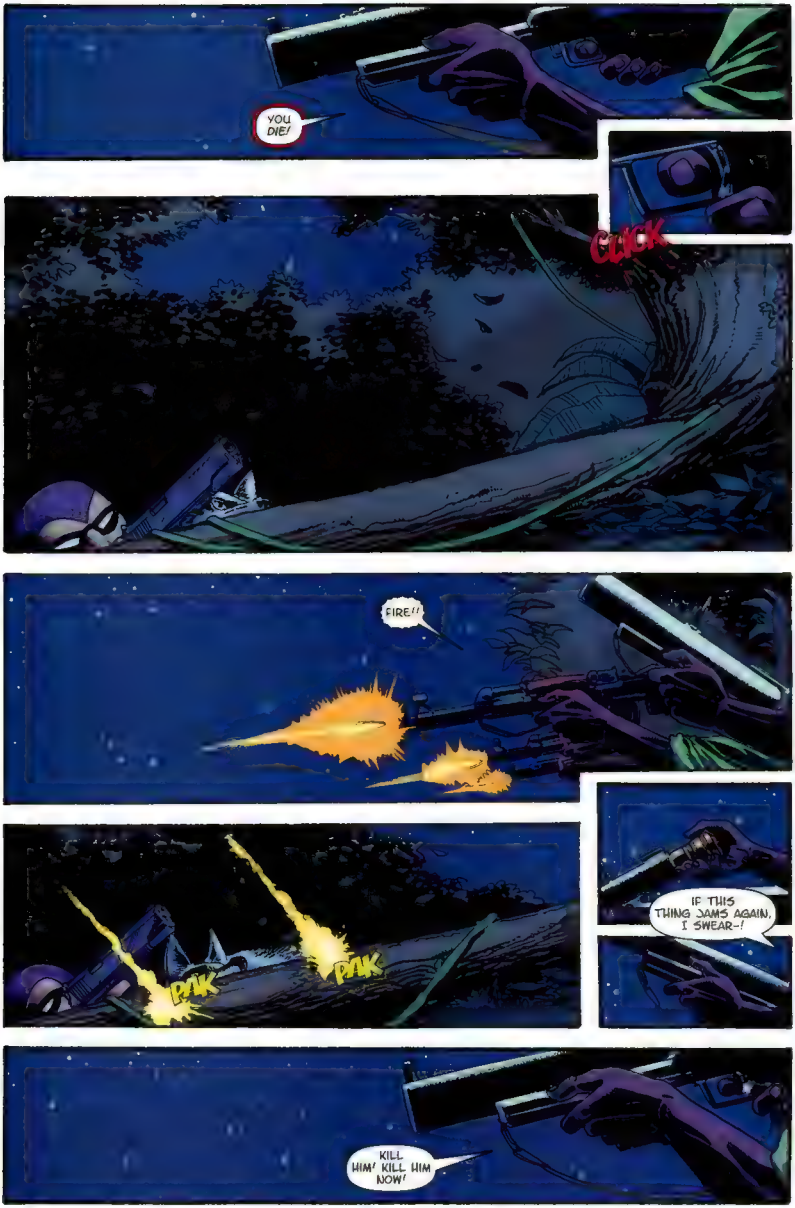
CHIGANI!
NO!
IT SEEMS, CHIGANI WAS RIGHT..
BY THE SKULL!
THIS IS WHAT HAPPENS TO THOSE WHO HELP THE PHANTOM.

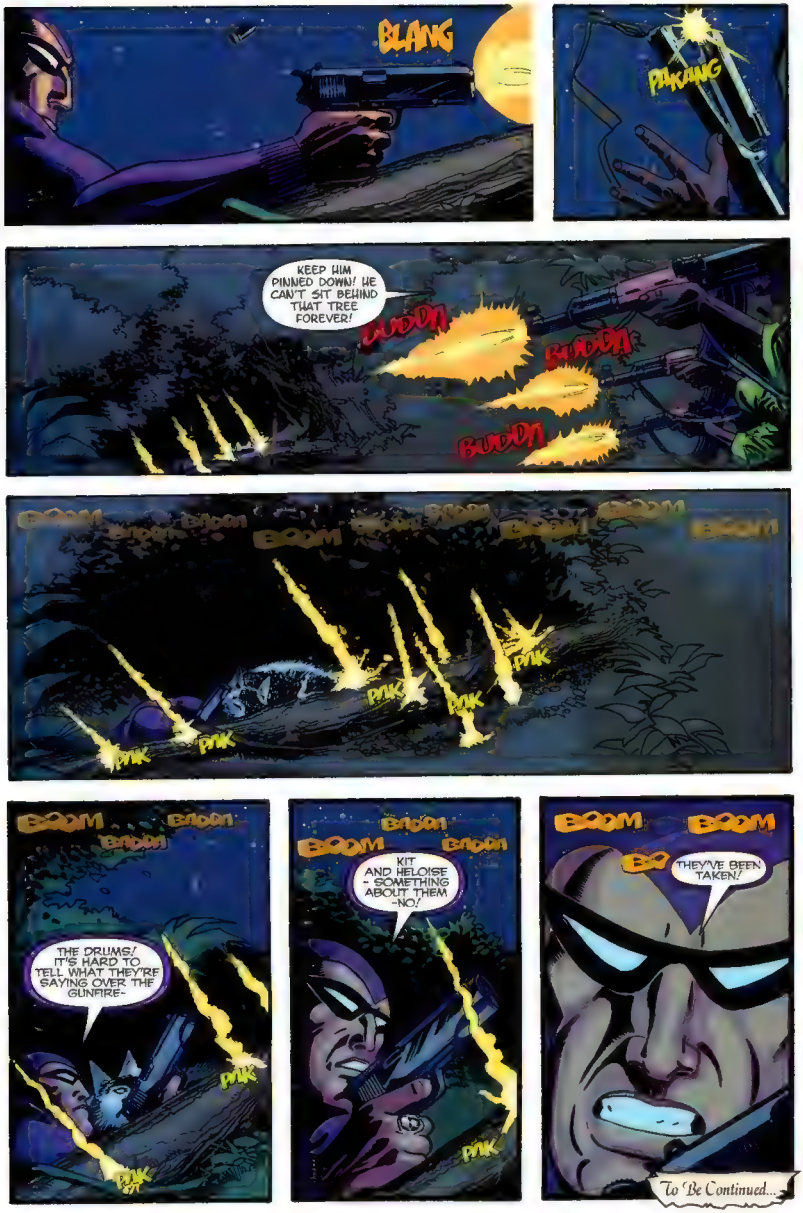
TWO FRIENDS IN ONE DAY. I'M SORRY GURAN. BUT NOW IS NOT THE TIME FOR MOURNING.
GURAN!
I NEED YOU TO MEET UP WITH THE JUNGLE PATROL AT THE MAIN GATE. HELP THEM COORDINATE THE RESCUE AND CARE OF SURVIVORS
R-RIGHT YOU ARE RIGHT, GHOST WHO WALKS I WILL DO AS YOU SAY...
BASED ON THESE IMPACT MARKS AND THE BULLET HOLES IN THE GROUND, I'D SAY THE ATTACK CAME FROM OVER THERE, DEVIL

IF WE CAN CATCH UP TO THEM BEFORE THEY LEAVE THE WOODS, WE'LL HAVE THE UPPER HAND, DEVIL
WE'RE IN THE CLEAR. NO ONE WILL EVER KNOW IT WAS US.
ANOTHER MILE OR SO AND--
-URK!

WE'RE ALMOST OUT! WE'LL BE HOME IN TIME FOR THE SHOW!
WHAT'S (N) THE ARENA TONIGHT? LIONS OR TIGERS?
I WANT TO SEE THE P-
PAHK


PAK
PAK
PAK
PAK
RUN!
LOOKS LIKE WE'RE NOT THE HUNTERS ANYMORE
PAK
PAK
IF YOU REALLY ARE THE MAN WHO CANNOT DIE, THIS GRENADE WILL NOT HURT YOU.
BUT, I'M THINKING IT WILL BLOW YOU INTO TINY PIECES!
HAHAHAHA!!
AND NOW-


YOU DIE!
CLICK
FIRE!!
IF THIS THING JAMS AGAIN, I SWEAR-!
PAK
PAK
KILL HIM! KILL HIM NOW!


BLANG
PAKANG
KEEP HIM PINNED DOWN! WE CAN'T SIT BEHIND THAT TREE FOREVER!
BUDDA
BUDDA
BUDDA
BOOM
BADDA
PINK
THE DRUMS! IT'S HARD TO TELL WHAT THEY'RE SAYING OVER THE GUNFIRE-
KIT AND HELOISE - SOMETHING ABOUT THEM -NO!
THEY'VE BEEN TAKEN!
To Be Continued...

BEHIND THE MASK

By Ed Rhoades

The Phantom Evolves on TV

The Phantom has had limited exposure on Television. His earliest appearance were limited to cameos and bit parts such as a quick appearance in the Beatles' "Yellow Submarine", and a part in a Saturday morning cartoon, "Popeye and the Man Who Hated Laughter" in which he shared the bill with some of the same comic heroes from his later syndicated "Defenders of the Universe."

In Italy, there was a low budget show which was at least historically interesting based on the single episode I saw. The entire sequence was narrated by a man with a skull mark on his face. He told the story of his encounter with the Phantom and his descriptions were highlighted by nice ink illustrations. The copy I watched was in Italian with English subtitles. While I was glad to see another instance of a Phantom story made for TV, the production was less than riveting.

There was another low budget pilot from 1961with an interesting cast including Roger Creed as The Phantom/Mr. Walker, Paulette Goddard, Lon Chaney Jr. and Richard Kiel. Unfortunately, the Phantom was only shown briefly in costume and despite having better episodes prepared in the event the pilot succeeded, it never aired.

There were Phantom documentaries like the Phantom A&E Biography that I worked on, an HBO Making Of for the Paramount Phantom film, and some promotional productions for the Paramount movie, but no actual live action Phantom adventures made for American television.

Marvel comics featured two Phantom comic book offerings. Once was a three issue series that featured a high tech Phantom that was the son of the 22nd Phantom which ran in 1994 and 1995. The other was a 1995 four part futuristic comic series called Phantom 2040 that told the adventures of a descendent of our current Phantom. Phantom 2040 became an animated television program which enjoyed a cult following due to the involvement of Peter Chung of Aeon Flux fame.

Now, SyFy (formerly the Sci Fi Channel) has its own updated version of The Phantom for American audiences. As of this writing, it has only aired in Canada where it was filmed, but it is bound for release in the US. Ryan Carnes is cast in the title role and I suspect he may be a hit… especially with younger audiences. Carnes looks like a younger version of Brad Pitt and his love interest is a beautiful redhead and even Guran is played by a pretty young lady. This much pulchritude and youth could resonate with younger viewers.

The story is about the son of our current Phantom, and there are things which will be met with strong objections by traditional fans. However it changes and evolves from the classic Phantom, it is a continuation of the familiar Phantom legend.

There are contradictions. His opponents die during their encounters, and he is reminded that The Phantom doesn't kill, but their deaths are results of accidents. Thus far, his twin sister seems to have been left out of the story, but it's possible that she could emerge later in the storyline. The skull cave has modern laboratories, but there is also a primitive part with chronicles that bears something of a resemblance to the cave in the Paramount film. No one is shown gaining access to the skull cave through a waterfall, but the cave is isolated and a waterfall is shown.

Although he wears a modern costume with high tech features, the traditional costume is shown explaining that his father disliked the costume and if he had lived would have worn the modern suit. He doesn't put the goodmark on anyone's wrist, but he does give out goodmark rings explaining that the wearer is under the protection of The Phantom.

The film seems to borrow from the storyline of Phantom 2040 in that he has reached adulthood before he learns of his legacy. It also is similar to the Marvel miniseries in that he is the son of the current Phantom and uses more advanced weaponry. There is no skull throne, but the circumstances regarding his love interest are similar to the Paramount film. He was called away without an opportunity to say goodbye and later, she visits his cave. He also does acrobatics across roofs and atop moving vehicles.

His new costume features a skull motif and his ring leaves a scar in the shape of a skull. I don't want to give away actual details from the story, but his opponents are formidable and there is enough of a story to entice new Phantom fans and perhaps even old ones will find it interesting.

I sincerely wish SyFy success with this offering and hope that it paves the way for another big screen feature with The Ghost Who Walks.

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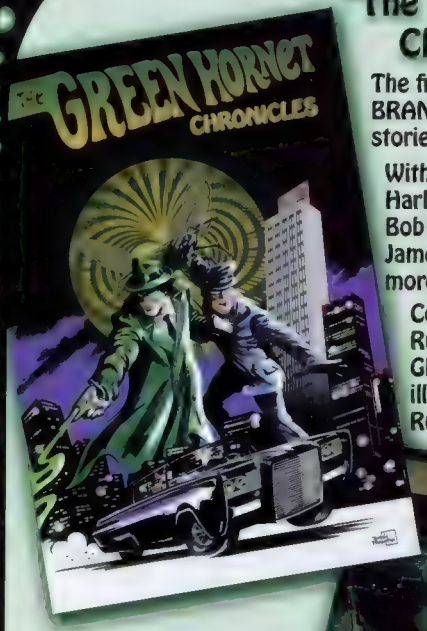

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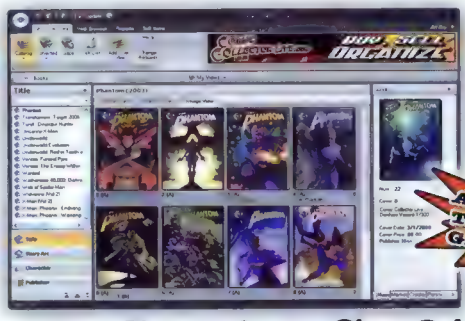

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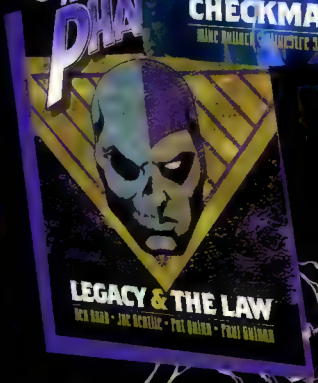

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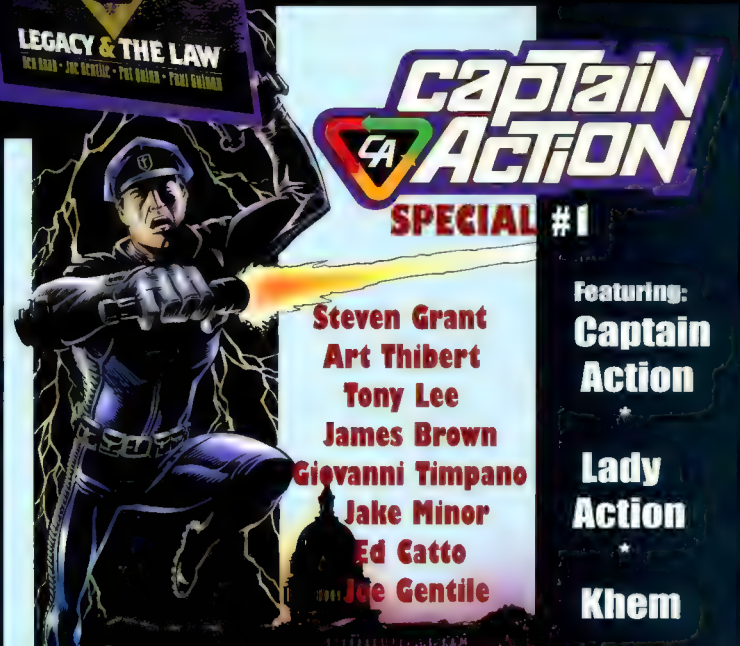

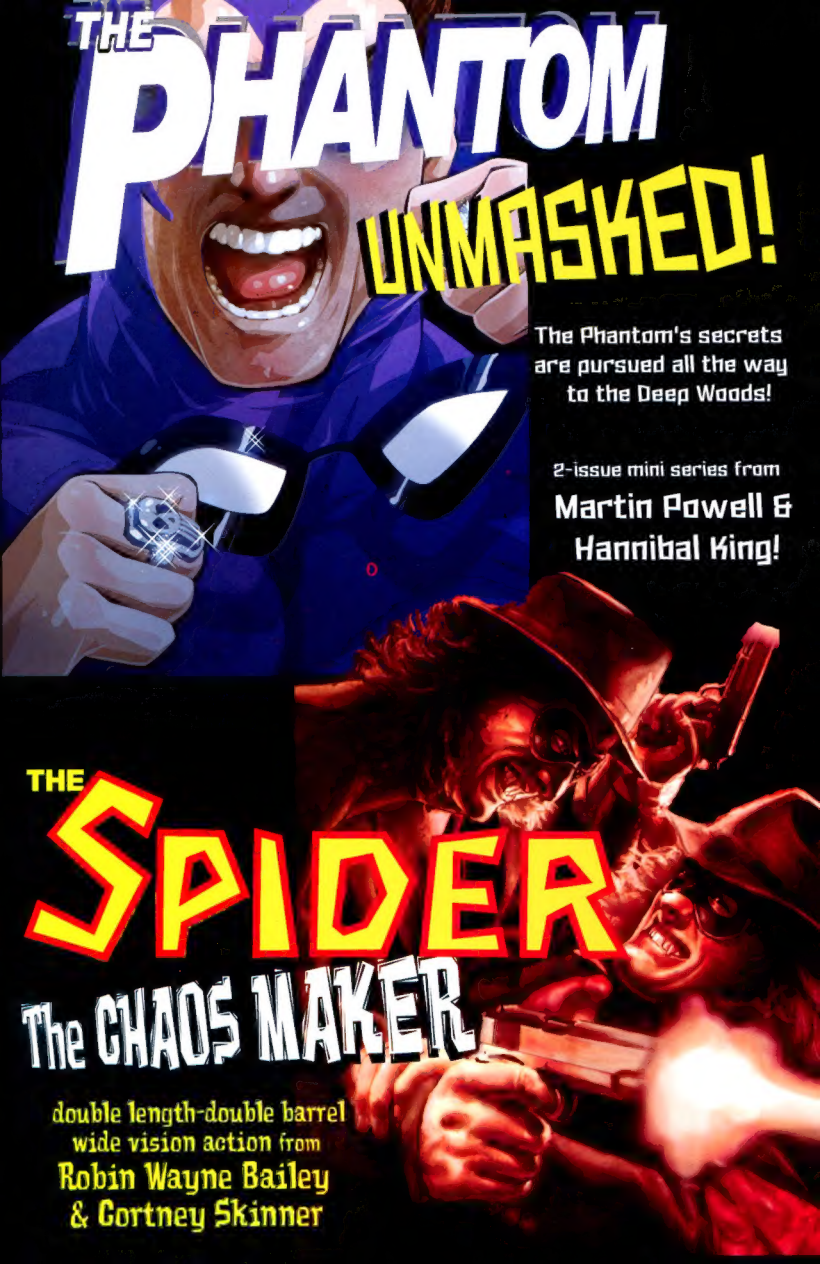
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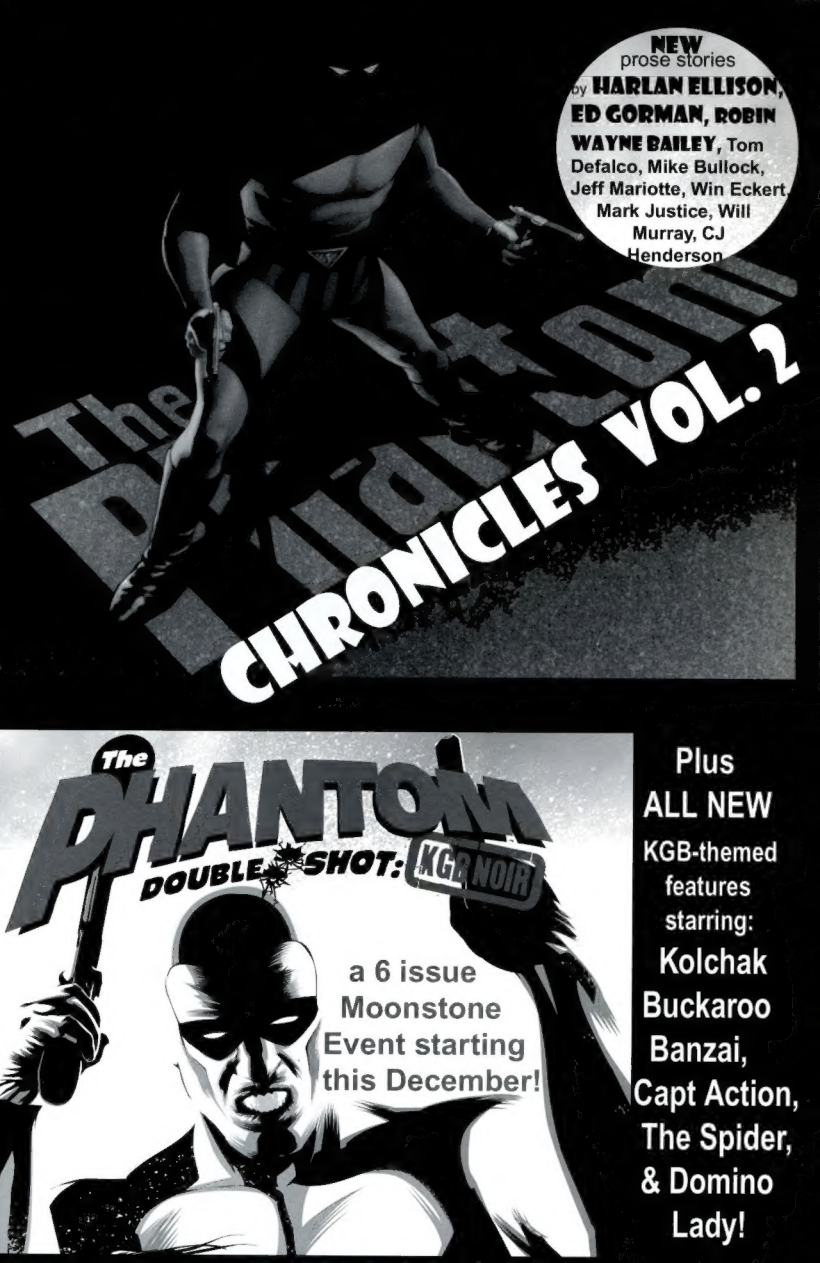
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